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**DEMANDE
DE BREVET D'INVENTION**

(21)

N° 76 24925

(54) Revêtement de sol notamment pour lieux où se déroulent des manifestations temporaires.

(51) Classification internationale (Int. Cl.²). **E 04 F 15/02; B 32 B 5/00, 7/00.**

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(72) Invention de :

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(74) Mandataire : Harlé et Léchopiez.

*Melton sheet
Verca*

L'invention a donc pour but de proposer un revêtement de sol qui puisse être réemployé de nombreuses fois, dont la pose soit facile et très rapide et n'occasionne que très peu de perte en cas de réemploi et qui soit suffisamment épais pour absorber les irrégularités du sol et suffisamment lourd et encombrant pour supprimer les risques de vol.

Le revêtement de sol selon l'invention comporte une sous-couche épaisse et souple servant de support à une couche d'usure superficielle qui est fixée de manière amovible sur ladite sous-couche laquelle est réalisée en matière à densité élevée pour servir de lest.

De préférence, le revêtement est conditionné sous forme de dalles de grandes dimensions (de l'ordre de 1 m x 2 m) et la couche d'usure peut être soit collée soit agrafée ou cousue sur la sous-couche; la liaison amovible peut également être réalisée au moyen de bandes adhésives reliées respectivement à la couche d'usure et à la sous-couche, lesdites bandes adhésives pouvant être des bandes collantes ou encore des nappes souples dont les surfaces complémentaires portent respectivement des crochets et des boucles destinés à s'interpénétrer, lesdites nappes souples étant par exemple en velours à crochets à éléments d'accrochage commercialisé sous la marque déposée "VELCRO".

La sous-couche épaisse et souple est réalisée de préférence en matériau dense et lourd pour servir de lest et assurer la fixité du revêtement sur le sol, sans tension ou liaison particulière, ladite sous-couche servant également à la fois de support à la couche d'usure et de thibaude pour absorber les irrégularités du sol; la sous-couche peut être par exemple en matière plastique telle qu'en polychlorure de vinyle ou encore en caoutchouc synthétique ou naturel ou en tout autre matériau de caractéristique mécanique équivalente.

La couche d'usure est choisie de préférence mince et légère, par exemple en fibres synthétiques bon marché, et assure la qualité de l'aspect; elle est interchangeable et peut être aisément remplacée après usure, salissure ou détérioration (déchirure, brûlure, etc.), ce qui permet de remettre rapidement en état tout ou partie d'un sol ou de faire varier son aspect à volonté.

En outre, la présentation en dalles offre plusieurs avantages tels que, par exemple, le fait que le simple poids des éléments permet un placage au sol sans tension ni collage, ces deux opérations étant à proscrire pour leur difficulté de réalisation en

REVENDICATIONS

1. Revêtement de sol comportant une sous-couche épaisse et souple servant de support à une couche d'usure superficielle, caractérisée en ce que la couche d'usure est fixée de manière amovible sur ladite sous-couche laquelle est réalisée en matière à densité élevée pour servir de lest.
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2. Revêtement selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce qu'il est conditionné sous forme de dalles.
3. Revêtement selon l'une des revendications 1 et 2, caractérisé en ce que la couche d'usure est collée sur la sous-couche.
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4. Revêtement selon l'une des revendications 1 et 2, caractérisé en ce que la couche d'usure est agrafée sur la sous-couche.
5. Revêtement selon l'une des revendications 1 et 2, caractérisé en ce que la couche d'usure est cousue sur la sous-couche.
- 15 6. Revêtement selon l'une des revendications 1 et 2, caractérisé en ce que la couche d'usure est fixée sur la sous-couche au moyen de bandes adhésives portées respectivement par chacune d'entre elles.
7. Revêtement selon la revendication 6, caractérisé en ce que la couche d'usure est fixée sur la sous-couche au moyen de nappes souples dont les surfaces complémentaires portent respectivement des crochets et des boucles destinés à s'interpénétrer.
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8. Revêtement selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7, caractérisé en ce que la sous-couche est en matière plastique.
- 25 9. Revêtement selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7, caractérisé en ce que la sous-couche est en caoutchouc.
10. Revêtement selon la revendication 8, caractérisé en ce que la sous-couche est en polychlorure de vinyle.

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**PATENT
APPLICATION**

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NO: 76 24925

54 Floor covering notably for venues holding temporary events.

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72 Inventor:

73 Owner: *Idem* 71

74 Representative: Harlé and Léchopiez

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This invention relates to floor coverings.

The invention is particularly useful for covering floors in venues holding temporary events.

Venues where large events such as fairs, exhibitions, conferences etc... are held generally have concrete floors that need to be covered in order to improve the esthetics and the comfort level and to allow the occupied zones to be differentiated from the traffic zones by using different coloured paints.

The coverings used for these temporary events must be able to be laid and removed very quickly; easily affixed to the ground; sufficiently comfortable; display a pleasant appearance as well as a wide range of colours and above all, they must be able to be reused numerous times to spread out their depreciation.

Currently, the available coverings come either in rolls, in the form of heavy or light carpets, or in tiles. The thick looking heavy carpets, made of natural coconut fibres, sisal or coconut/sisal mix etc... are attractively priced. They absorb the irregularities of the ground well and can be reused but they have to be stretched while they are being laid, which requires peripheral anchors that are often not feasible and require a great deal of skilled labour. Heavy carpet coatings, generally made of PVC, have a more refined appearance and the heavy coating reduces the need for tension while they are being laid, but they give off toxic combustible gases, the dimensions are unstable and their packaging in rolls causes waste during reuse because of the new measurements. This last inconvenience is lessened by their availability in tile form but, the cost is higher, the tiles cannot be reused once they have been installed and if they are small tiles, the risk of theft is high as is their installation time.

Finally, light carpets in rolls, which are attractively priced, cannot be reused. Furthermore, they require a thick backing to absorb the irregularities of the ground and the use of adhesive tape to ensure sufficient tension makes for a difficult and costly application.

Therefore, the goal of the invention is to propose a floor covering that can be reused several times, whose application is easy and very quick and does not cause a great deal of waste during reuse and that is thick enough to absorb the irregularities of the ground and heavy and cumbersome enough to lessen the risk of theft.

The floor covering offered by the invention has a thick and flexible backing that supports a removable superficial surface course that is affixed to the said backing which is made of a high density material that can be used as ballast.

Preferably, the covering is packaged in the form of large tiles (about 1 m x 2 m) and the surface course can either be glued, stapled or sewn to the backing. The removable bond can also be applied using adhesive tape tied to the surface course and the backing respectively. The said tape can be splicing tape or even flexible sheets whose complimentary surfaces have respective hooks and loops that are meant to interpenetrate each other. The said sheets, for example, are made of velour with hooks and hooking devices and sold under the trademark "VELCRO".

The thick and flexible backing is preferably made of dense, heavy material so that it can act as a ballast and ensure the fixing of the covering to the ground, without tension or specific connectors. The said backing also acts both as a support for the surface course and as an underpad to absorb the irregularities of the ground. For example, the backing can be made from plastic such as polyvinyl chloride or from synthetic or natural rubber or from any other material with equivalent mechanical features.

The choice for the surface course is preferably thin and light, for example, well priced synthetic fibers, while ensuring the quality of its appearance. It is interchangeable and can be easily replaced after being used, dirtied or worn out (tears, burns, etc...). This will allow for all or a portion of the ground to be quickly repaired or to voluntarily change its appearance.

Furthermore, its availability in tile form offers several advantages such as, for example, the fact that the light weight of the elements allows them to be adhered to the ground without tension or the need to glue them down. These two procedures are proscribed for their difficulty to carry them out over large surfaces in a short period of time and also for the fact that their modulation in metric and semi-metric tiles allows for the solution of common problems.

This temporary flexible assembly of two elements with different structures and complementary uses brings considerable advantages in this floor covering industry, namely:

- a quick and easy solution to all the problems of laying aisle and stand carpeting using non-specialized labour;
- absorption from simply laying varying dimensions due to the joints;
- comfort due to the thickness of the backing;
- esthetic appearance varied by the very light surface course, made mainly from synthetic fibres;

- limited thickness and low price of the surface course;
- almost unlimited use of the ballast coat;
- tiles can be repaired in the workshop, therefore operations requiring skilled labour on the site are kept to a bare minimum;
- possibility of industrializing the laying of the surface course (for example, by gluing it),
- limited risk of theft due to the large size of the tiles;
- possibility of palletization for normal handling.

Of course, the scope of the invention is not strictly limited to the types of applications described above but, it also covers all variations that would differ only in terms of the details.

CLAIMS

1. Floor covering containing a thick and flexible backing acting as support for a superficial surface course, wherein the surface course is fixed to the said backing in a removable manner while the backing is made from a high-density material so that it may act as a ballast.
2. Covering according to clause 1, wherein it is available in tile form.
3. Covering according to either clause 1 or 2, wherein the surface course is glued to the backing.
4. Covering according to either clause 1 or 2, wherein the surface course is stapled to the backing.
5. Covering according to either clause 1 or 2, wherein the surface course is sewn to the backing.
6. Covering according to either clause 1 or 2, wherein the surface course is fixed to the backing using adhesive tape respectively supported by each other.
7. Covering according to clause 6, wherein the surface course is fixed to the backing using flexible sheets whose complimentary surfaces respectively support hooks and loops that are meant to interpenetrate each other.
8. Covering according to any of the clauses 1 to 7, wherein the backing is made from plastic material.
9. Covering according to any of the clauses 1 to 7, wherein the backing is made from rubber.
10. Covering according to clause 8, wherein the backing is made from polyvinyl chloride.